

Choosing how to get paid

Students explore and compare common payment methods and pay periods that employers use. They apply their learning by voting on their preferred methods in a class poll.

Learning goals

Big idea

Employers can pay employees in different ways.

Essential questions

- What are the different methods for paying employees?
- How often do employees get paid?

Objectives



- Describe various methods and schedules employers use to pay their employees
- Compare and contrast four common methods and schedules for getting paid

What students will do

- Use the "Choosing how to get paid" worksheet to compare and contrast different methods and schedules for getting paid.
- Write questions or thoughts about each one.
- Vote in a poll about the payment methods and schedules, and discuss their decisions with the class.

KEY INFORMATION

Building block:

-  Financial habits and norms
-  Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

Grade level: High school (9-12)

Age range: 13-19

Topic: Earn (Getting paid)

School subject: CTE (Career and technical education), Social studies or history

Teaching strategy: Gamification, Cooperative learning

Bloom's Taxonomy level: Understand, Evaluate

Activity duration: 45-60 minutes

STANDARDS

Council for Economic Education
Standard 1. Earning income

Jump\$tart Coalition
Employment and income - Standard 2

Preparing for this activity

- ☐ Print copies of all student materials for each student, or prepare for students to access them electronically.
- ☐ Prepare to give students a survey at the end of the activity. If desired, create a digital version of a poll.

What you'll need

THIS TEACHER GUIDE

Choosing how to get paid (guide)

[bcbp_building_block_activities_choosing-how-to-get-paid_guide.pdf](#)

STUDENT MATERIALS

- Choosing how to get paid (worksheet)
[bcbp_building_block_activities_choosing-how-to-get-paid_worksheet.pdf](#)
- Student survey

Exploring key financial concepts

For many teens, their first paid work is through an informal arrangement such as babysitting or helping a neighbor, where they're often paid in cash. More structured jobs often come with more formal payment arrangements.

It's helpful for youth to understand there are two basic variables in getting paid: the method of payments (how) and schedule of payments (when). The schedule of payments is also called a pay period—the amount of time an employee works before being paid, for example, a week or a month. When you understand the details of getting paid, you can establish habits for managing your money.

TIP

Because financial details and product terms change frequently, students should be encouraged to always look for the most up-to-date information.

Teaching this activity

Whole-class introduction

- Distribute the “Choosing how to get paid” worksheet, or have students access the worksheet electronically.
- Explain that students will review the methods and pay periods on the worksheet and write questions or comments they have about each method in the far-right column.

Individual or group work

- Have students work individually, in pairs, or in groups to review the various payment options, and write down questions or thoughts they have about each option.
- Ask students to take a moment to compare and contrast the different payment methods. Students should be able to describe the differences between payment methods.

Wrap-up

- Have a few students share their questions or thoughts about the different options.
- Invite students who have had a job to share their experiences with payment methods and pay periods.
- Ask students to vote in a class poll that poses four questions:
 - Which payment method do I prefer for work I might do right now?
 - Which pay period type do I prefer for work I might do right now?
 - Which payment method might I prefer when I’m living on my own?
 - Which pay period type might I prefer when I’m living on my own?
- Tally students’ responses and report back on the most popular methods and pay periods, both now and in the future.
- Ask students to discuss how and why their choices may differ now and when they’re an adult.

Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other activities that address the topics of making money, getting paid, or paying taxes.

Measuring student learning

- Observe and listen to students' understanding of the concepts of payment methods and pay periods as they discuss their reactions and preferences with one another.

Keep in mind that students' answers may vary, as there may not be only one right answer. The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their answers.